

## BIRDS OFF FOR SOUTH

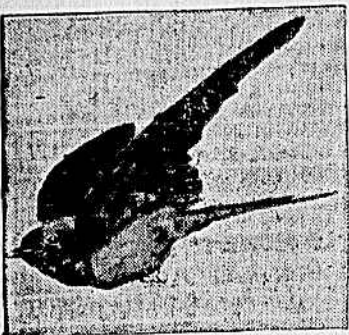
Yearly Migration of Feathered Hosts Unexplained Mystery

### OBSERVING NIGHT FLIGHT

Can Be Seen With Opera Glasses Crossing Face of Moon—Many Killed by Lighthouse—Aristotle's Kinglet.

By EDWARD B. CLARK, (Associate Member American Ornithologists' Union).

Who shall explain the mystery of the migration? Regularly every year at the first pulsing of the spring and at the first chilling of the fall the great bird army takes up its march of migration. Why? For centuries scientists have been striving to answer the question. Answers have been given by the score, but as yet the answer is to come which shall satisfy the multitudes who wonder at the mystery.



BARN SWALLOW (HIRUNDO ERYTHROGASTRA) ON THE WING.

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If we conceive for a moment of a condition in which an army of birds newly sprung to life, finds itself in a temperate country with foraging conditions of the best, and then suddenly finds itself face to face with frost and famine, we can understand why the army, pressed by hunger and cold, should take up the march for another and a better camping ground.

### WHY LEAVE THE SOUTH?

Let us consider next that the bird army has left frost and famine behind and has found a place of warmth and plenty. The months pass on, the climate remains genial, and the food supply remains abundant, yet there are signs of restlessness in the ranks of the feathered hosts. The fields and the forests of the Southland at sunset still hold the army, pressed by hunger and cold, should take up the march for another and a better camping ground.

What is it that has sent the birds back to the country which less than six months ago chilled them and starved them into the deserting of its borders? No one knows, and there are those scientists who, unlike most of their brothers who never are willing to admit any problem unsolvable, are not backward in saying that the migration will remain a mystery until the end of time.

Aristotle three hundred and more years before Christ wrote of the yearly movements of the birds. The scientist of today is writing upon the same subject, and it may be that the scientists of more than twenty centuries hence will write of the migration and end his writings with the same old interrogation.

It has been said that the birds feel the touch of frost and famine and immediately take up their march. This is true only in part, for with some species the southward flying movement begins in August before there is even a suspicion of the yellowing of the leaf or a smack of frost in the air of the night.

### THE FLIGHT SOUTHWARD.

In this September month the warblers (family Parulidae) are hurrying Southward. Countless thousands of them pass over the city and country in the darkness of the night. They are miles of creatures, these warblers, being but a degree or two removed in size from the hummingbirds and the kinglets, yet they undertake uncharted journeys that for peril and distance would strike terror to the heart of man, armed though he be with reason and foresight.

The weaker birds seem to prefer the night time migration. William Brewster, of Cambridge, Mass., has settled this point probably definitely. He believes that the reason the wrens, the warblers, the vireos and all the thrush family except the robin prefer the night journey is because they are afraid of the exposure by daylight, or are unable to continue such journeys day after day without losing much time in stopping to search for food. By taking the night for traveling they can devote the days entirely to feeding and resting in their favorite haunts.

"Bold, restless strong-winged birds migrate chiefly or very freely by day because being accustomed to seek their food in open situations, they are indifferent to concealment, and being further able to accomplish long distances rapidly and with slight fatigue, they can ordinarily spare sufficient time by the way for brief stops in places where food is abundant and easily obtained. Under certain conditions, however, as when crowding large bodies of birds, they are sometimes obliged to travel partly, or perhaps even exclusively by night. Excessive excitement, the robin (Merula), horned lark (Otocoris), and most juncos (Babcockia, blackbirds and orioles).

"Birds of easy, pliant wing, which naturally feed in the air or over very extensive areas, migrate exclusively by day, because, being able either to obtain their usual supply of food as they fly or to accomplish the longest journeys so rapidly that they do not require to feed by the way, they are under no necessity of changing their usual habits. The best examples are swallows, vireos, and hawks."

WATCHING BIRDS CROSS MOON. If you who read this article on the migration wish to have an experience that will appeal to you as being little short of startling, take a field glass with a two-inch lens and focus it upon the full moon, and then take up a nightly vigil. If conditions be favorable you will see clearly the forms of the southward flying birds as they pass across the moon's face.

There is no experience known to the bird student, perhaps, which has the interest that is held by this midnight study. It is, of course, better to have for observing purposes a telescope of power, so arranged that the arm of the observer need not lie at its task. It follows necessarily that the larger and more powerful the glass the more satisfactory will be the results. For one fairly familiar with the form and the flight of birds it is possible, with nights shadows falling all about, to distinguish wing strokes.

One observer more lucky than his fellows saw a sparrow hawk stop suddenly in its flight, seemingly in the very heart of the moon, and there hover fully a minute, while its wings beat with lightning-like rapidity to keep it at its chosen hovering point. The sparrow hawk, thus poised by the moon, and what little stranger of the great bird army fell a victim to that hawk's rapacity can only be a matter of conjecture.

### KILLED AT LIGHTHOUSES.

Thousands upon thousands of birds are killed every year by striking against the panes of the light houses which line the coasts of lakes and seas. The birds become bewildered by fog and rain and are attracted by the light, which to them is a beacon of safety for the travelers by sea, but which proves to be the sure destruction of the wanderer of the air. Ob-

### PHISH DUCKS (MERGANSER SERRATOR) IN FLIGHT, PHOTOGRAPHED FROM LIFE.

servations have been made systematically and nearly all the light houses under government control, and the figures of bird mortality are startling. The student of the bird world has heard of the slaughter in the bird ranks due to the shotgun, and the killings due to fog and storm, and the question of the migration of the birds does not cease to be of interest because there are no birds left to migrate.

### SWALLOWS START ON JOURNEY.

Some of the swallows have already undertaken their journey southward, and their fellows will soon follow. The start of the swallows on their southern trip is the sign of a lifetime. The birds will congregate in myriads above some chosen meadow. In ranks formed in close order they will circle about brushing the tips of their wings. Round and round they go in dizzy flight until suddenly from some point in the whirling column there is an upward movement and like a great cloud with a hurricane pressing at its rear the mass of birds mounts upward and then breaking into open order streams southward across the sky.

The warblers coming to us from the north in September pass southward and then will follow the great congregation of native sparrows, the hawks, the hermit thrushes and the rest of the skurrying throng.

The golden-crowned kinglet will be with us in a few days. If we treat him well this little fellow may come with us all through the winter. The kinglet is the smallest bird we have, with the sole exception of the ruby-throated hummingbird.

BIRDS NAMED BY ARISTOTLE. The golden-crowned kinglet is a bird of particular interest. He bears the distinction of having been named by the philosopher, Aristotle, who, something like twenty-three hundred years ago, wrote us all through the winter. The kinglet is the smallest bird we have, with the sole exception of the ruby-throated hummingbird.

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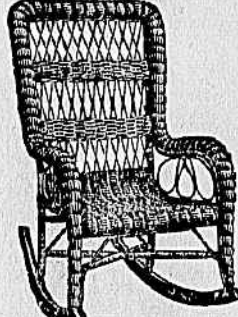
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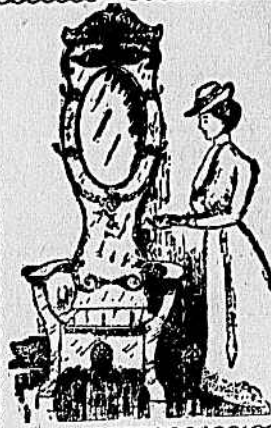
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GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET (REGULUS SATRAPA). THIS BIRD WAS NAMED BY ARISTOTLE THREE CENTURIES AND MORE BEFORE CHRIST. THE KING LETS SCORN WILL FILL THE CITY TREES.

tion for a building on a crowded thoroughfare had a kinglet light upon his hat and stay there for fully five minutes while he kept up his measured strokes with the pickaxe. The ducks, the geese and the wading birds have begun their southern journey, and every wing stroke of their way is punctuated by the report of a shotgun. The flight of some of the ducks is so rapid that the eye seemingly has difficulty in following their course. Unfortunately for the birds, however, they have not yet succeeded through centuries of training in acquiring the rapidity of locomotion sufficient to distance the projectile which man has designed to overtake them and to cut short both flight and life.

## TALLY-HO IN STAUNTON

A Tour of Europe for Business and Pleasure.

### NUMBER GIRL STUDENTS

A Firm Indicted for Selling Liquor to Minors—Family Reunion on Occasion of Mrs. Rossen's Seventieth Birthday.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) STAUNTON, Va., Sept. 19.—A delightful tally-ho ride was begun Monday evening last by Messrs. J. E. Bradley and Tayloe Blackford, both of whom now reside in Baltimore, but who have been spending some time in Staunton. The party spent several hours driving about the city and around the parks. Mrs. John B. Hoge acted as chaperone. The party consisted of Mr. and Mrs. H. Clay Miller, Mrs. Thomas Pantloney, Miss Helen Baxter, Miss Emma Hoge, Rose Wilz, Mabel Lattig, Marie Brunson, Mattie Shreckhise, Mr. and Mrs. William Burke, Rose Harrison, James E. Bradley, Tayloe Blackford and T. K. Miller, Jr., of Staunton; Theodore Brundley, of Fredericksburg, Md.; Gideon Timberlake, of Newburg, Md.; and Carey Tabb, of the University of Virginia.

The trial of James Keeling (covered) for shooting William Beall has been postponed until the latter part of next month. Fred Newman (white) and Lillie Walker (colored) are in jail, serving a two-months' sentence for living together. After a short visit to his friends in Staunton, Stuart Gibson returned this week to Richmond. William T. Hartman is visiting in Richmond. Turner K. Hackman, a prominent attorney of this bar, is in Richmond. Miss Margaret Kahle is visiting in Cumberland, Md. Mr. William A. Walters, of Asbury Park, N. Y., a nephew of Captain James H. Walters, is visiting C. W. Miller in this city. Miss Irene Haislip has accepted a position in the Massanutten Academy at Woodstock, and left to take up her duties teaching music at that school this week. Miss Haislip has many friends in Staunton, and it is with regret they give her up for the session. She is a very accomplished young lady. Captain Alexander Harman, of Richmond, was in the city this week. A FAMILY REUNION. On the occasion of the seventieth birthday of Mrs. Mary S. Rossen, of this county, there was a happy reunion at her home this week. There were present her three brothers, five children, eighteen grandchildren, two nephews and a number of outsiders, all of whom enjoyed a sumptuous dinner under the large trees in the yard during the evening. It is reported on good authority that the Crimora Manganeese Company of Virginia, which is a large and successful manufacturing business near Crimora, has been purchased by the New Jersey Manganeese Company, and that J. Pierpont Morgan is at the back of the deal. The Staunton Canning and Evaporating Company, of this city, is now working in full blast and putting up over two thousand gallons of apples and tomatoes daily. In the short time they have been working they have canned in the neighborhood of forty-five thousand gallons.

### DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATION OVER VISIT OF KING

(Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.) PARIS, Sept. 19.—The most absorbing question incident to the visit of the King of Italy is whether Queen Helena will accompany him or not. Never has a state question given rise to so many diplomatic negotiations. While a member of the Quirinal has given out the Queen will come, Count Cornelli, the ambassador in Paris, flat-

ly denies it. It seems that a sovereign visiting another State in company with his consort indicates a higher degree of friendship than when he comes alone.

The question, therefore, is, has the friendship of Italy and France reached such a point as to warrant the triumphal reception in Paris of both the King and Queen next October?

### PRESIDENT LOUBET A GREAT FAVORITE

(Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.) PARIS, Sept. 19.—After thirty-three years of his summer vacation at his new Chateau of Mazon, near his own native Montclair, has become the lion of the whole region. The mayors of more than fifty towns and villages, all the police and administration officers for scores of miles around, came to pay their respects to him. He always invited as many as came in a day to stop for breakfast or dinner with him. He has also gone around freely among the farmers of the district, knows them all by name, and is looked upon by them as a bucolic demigod.

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My special attention was called to it four years ago when I caught a severe cold, being exposed for over an hour in the rain away from home. Inflammation of the womb followed, with all the painful and serious consequences. One of our ladies advised me strongly to use Wine of Cardui, telling me of a number who had been cured through its use. I used six bottles, and was not only cured but gained nine pounds in weight and felt ten years younger.

I have advised sick women to use it since. It is the only medicine we keep constantly on hand for sick women in our barracks. It has never failed so far to relieve, to cure and to bless sick women. I heartily endorse it.

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Mrs. Habely is in a position to know the quality of Wine of Cardui, as the most distressing cases of female diseases come to her attention. Women come to her with menstrual disorders, bearing down pains and leucorrhœa, which by long neglect have become chronic. She says Wine of Cardui has never failed to relieve in these severe tests. And Wine of Cardui made Captain Habely herself a well woman when she was suffering female diseases. While cheap enough for any one, Wine of Cardui is used largely in the homes of the rich, being the best medicine women can secure at any price. Will you secure a \$1.00 bottle of Wine of Cardui from your druggist today?



Captain Habely  
CAPTAIN, SALVATION ARMY.